

REMARKS

The present invention is to provide a novel technique in an elastic couple rotor turning gear for rotating a driven rotor, in which the driving units are mounted on the frame of the driven rotor via an elastic support (5), so that when a little deviation occurs between the center of the turning gear and the driven rotor, a radial resisting stress caused by the deviation is substantially eliminated by the elastic support (see paragraph [0005] of the Specification).

In the Office Action the assertion is made that the claimed “elastic support (5)” element is disclosed in Widdrington (USP 3,252,349) as the portions 11a, 11b and 11c of the frame 11 because “everything has an elastic property.” The applicant disagrees with this assertion since it effectively eviscerates the meaning of the term “elastic.” Following this reasoning, almost all descriptive terms (such as “rigid”, “resilient”, ...) would have no meaning at all since nothing is absolute. On the other hand, no teaching or implication can be found in Widdrington that the frame 11 has an elastic property. To the contrary, as the applicant believes, the frame 11 of Widdrington is understood to have a rigid property for firmly supporting the toothed spur gear 10 and the gear drive units 14, 15 thereon, otherwise inaccurate engagement between the spur gear 10 and the drive units 14, 15 may occur due to elastic deformation of the frame 11.

The examiner also asserts that the element “elastic ribs (53)” in the claims is taught by the element 4 shown in Figure 1 in the Chinese patent CN99222132.3. The applicant disagrees. Nowhere in CN99222132.3 can it be found a teaching or implication that the element 4 (a coupling arm for connecting a speed reducer 2 and the rotor) is an “elastic” element. To the contrary, the coupling arm 4 in CN99222132.3 is understood to be “rigid” since otherwise the rotation may not be properly transmitted to the rotor. In addition, the applicant does not agree with the assertion in the Office Action that the upper ring 51 is disclosed in CN99222132.3, because nowhere in CN99222132.3 is the portion to the right of 4 in Fig. 1 illustrated or described as a ring.

For the above reasons, the presently pending claims are believed patentable over the references cited in the outstanding Office Action and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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